

I would like to make the following points in regard to the proceeding concerning the removal of the Morse Code testing requirement in the Amateur Radio Service.

1. I have been a licensed Amateur since 1969, (KØNEB) holding the Extra Class license. I took the 20WPM examination element and enjoy using Morse for communications, especially with low-powered equipment, commonly called “QRP” in amateur radio. I also speak on and teach Kit Building to amateurs at clubs, hamfests, and conventions.
2. I am not like many amateurs, in that I do not feel that it is necessary to continue Morse testing. There comes a time when things must change. It is not the end of the world, nor will it harm the Service. I also feel strongly that the Commission must also emphasize that in no way is the FCC not allowing Morse communications to continue. This is simply the removal of the testing requirement.
3. I believe that in this day and age, there is a parallel that can be drawn between Morse testing and a state DMV requiring a driver’s license applicant to show proficiency at a manual transmission. Both of these skills have their merit. Many drivers prefer a stick shift, along with the advantages of economy and control it affords, and buy their vehicles accordingly. Many amateurs prefer Morse operation for its efficiency and enjoyment, and also choose their operating preferences accordingly as well. Neither should require a special examination, but yet it can be a valuable or fun thing for both to learn these skills. No state DMV now requires a driver to know how to shift manually, and that time has come for the Amateur Radio Service as well to accept this change.
4. To most hams, Morse is a treasured tradition. To most newcomers to the service, it can seem like an archaic stumbling block to becoming licensed. I also believe that once licensed, many newcomers exposed to its usage will also take an interest in that mode of communications. But, the tradition of testing for that proficiency has long passed.
5. The expeditious handling of this Proceeding after the comment period will allow for its first effects to be noticed at the Dayton Hamvention in May 2006, where FCC personnel can make note and see if this was the right way to go in the Amateur Radio Service.

In conclusion, it is my belief that discontinuing the Morse testing in the Amateur Radio Service will be beneficial in attracting both internal upgrade activity as well as newcomers to the Service that heretofore have been discouraged by this examination element. I also do not believe the fears of some amateurs that a large element of those detrimental to the Service will become attracted to it by this change. Such has not been the

case with previous changes to our license structure. Amateur Radio has a storied history, and I believe a long and interesting future ahead of it.

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